and (iii) Exploring other areas for future cooperation in Science and Technology.

The thrust areas are (i) Bio-Technology and immunology, (ii) Material Science and Technology, (iii) Laser Science and Technology, (iv) Catalysis (v) Space Science & Technology (vi) Synchrotron Radiation Sources (vii) Water Prospecting and (viii) Computers and Electronics.

Both sides have also agreed to continue and broaden their cooperation in basic research in the areas of Mathematics; Theoretical and Applied Mechanics; Earth Sciences, Radiophysics and Astrophysics; Ecology and Environment; Basic Research in Chemical Sciences and Biology.

In addition to above the two sides agreed to explore other possible areas in Science & Technology for future cooperation.

The programme will be implemented through exchange of visits by scientists and technolgists; creation of collaborative scientific centres or groups for execution of joint programmes; organisation of bilateral seminars; exchange of scientific and technical information; and sharing of the results of common R&D work.

The two sides have agreed to establish an Indo-Soviet Joint Council for the implementation and coordination of this programme. It has also been decided to constitute a National Coordination Committee to evolve an ongoing national approach and facilitate overall coordination from the Indian side. The Department of Science and Technology will coordinate this programme from the Indian side and USSR State Committee for Science and Technology from the Soviet side.

(c) Such exchanges (under the envisaged proramme) would enable India to gain from the advances made in the Soviet Union in specific Science and Technology sectors which are of priority interest to us.

Associating Panchayti Raj Institutions in plan formulations

*78. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to involve Panchayati Raj institutions in the process of plan formulation and implementation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The involvement of elected representatives of the people right from the Panchayat level to the Members of Parliament, in the formulation and implementation of the Plan process at different levels has all along been emphasised by the Planning Commission. As Panchayati Raj Institutions fall within the purview of the States under the Constitution, States/Union Territories have been impressed upon from time to time to involve their public representatives in the Planning process. Presently, all but a few States, have taken steps in this regard. The process is an on-going one and, in varying stages, the States/Union Territories are moving in this direction.

*79. [*Transferred to the 3rd August*, 1987].

Hawala payments

*80. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-

tion has been drawn to the report in the 'Indian Express' dated July 1, 1987 captioned "Rs. 1,000 crores being siphoned off", to the effect that thousands of crores of rupees are being siphoned out of India by way of "hawala" payments; and

(b) if so, whether Government have gone into the facts behind this report, and if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enforcement Directorate and Central Economic Intelligence Bureau remain vigilant to detect cases of Hawala payments. It is difficult to give an exact estimate of Hawala transactions. However, in a recent operation in Bombay by the Economic Intelligence Bureau, 20 premises were searched on 27th June, 1987. As a result, several incriminating documents evidencing Hawala Payments in violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act amounting to about Rs. 30 crores were seized covering a period of about 7 to 8 months only.

Further investigations in the matter are being conducted by the Enforcement Directorate. As the investigations are still in progress, it is not expedient to disclose further details at this stage.

National equity fund for small scale industires

@511. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DARE:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Equity Fund for providing equity support to small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps which have been taken and which are being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up a National Equity Fund in the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for providing support towards equity to small scale entrepreneurs for setting up of new projects and also for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units. The Government of India would contribute Rs. 5 crores towards this Fund in 1987-88 and IDBI would provide a matching contribution. The assistance will be channelised initially through the nationalised banks.

Scientists and technologists benefited by BOYS-CAST Scheme

512. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is the number of scienstists and technologists benefited by the Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Area of Science and Technology (BOYS-CAST) Scheme during 1986-87 and the amount earmarked to the scheme for the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): A new scheme entitled Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of

@ Previously unstarred Question 103, transferred from the 27th July, 1987.